

# DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES



## CHAFEE IL NEWS BULLETIN

Moving Indiana Foster Youth Toward Permanency

January 2007

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### IL Field Specialists Hired

The three IL Field Specialists have been hired and began their duties on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Christine Singleton**, former case manager in Allen County, will cover Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Christine will be housed in the St. Joseph County DFR office in Mishawaka.

**Jeannie Darden**, former case manager in Delaware County, will cover Regions 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12. Jeannie will be housed at the DCS Central Office in Indianapolis.

**Beth Prebeck**, former employee of White's Family Programs in Columbus, will cover Regions 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18. Beth will be housed in the Lawrence County DCS office in Bedford.

They are currently in training and will soon be out visiting the county offices to discuss their duties and how they will assist the counties to ensure that all youth are provided with IL services and that transition planning takes place for all youth in care. They will also maintain cases in ICWIS of all youth receiving voluntary services as well as working closely with the Chafee contracted service providers and placement facilities where older youth are placed.

The IL Field Specialists will provide their contact information to county staff when they visit each office. This information will be included in the February News Bulletin also. They will be in training, doing a lot of reading related to the program and helping to catch up on ICWIS entry for the voluntary cases much of January.

### Children Our Best Investment-Youth Legislative Day

Monday, Feb. 5, 2007

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Indiana Convention Center

<http://www.childrens bureau.org/cobi/> Please go to this website and print out the registration form. There is no charge for youth under age 18 but there is a \$30 charge for adults who attend. The registration fee includes lunch.

This is a statewide advocacy event to learn how to help youth advocate for themselves and to help them to make better decisions related their needs as they leave the foster

### **Foster Club Website**

<http://www.fosterclub.com/index.cfm>

### **CONTACT US:**

**Independent Living**

**Coordinator**

**Mary Lou Easter, MSW**

**317-232-7116**

**Central Office**

**765-762-6125**

**Warren County DCS**

**mary.easter@dcs.in.gov**

care system. Members of the Youth Advisory Board will participate on a panel during the opening session and will participate in some of the break out sessions.

This is an opportunity for family case managers to spend meaningful time with a teen on their caseload to get to know the youth and find out what is important to them regarding their future. This time will also help the youth better understand how the government works and how their voice can be heard on issues of importance to them and other foster youth. Opportunities such as this tend to give case managers "a renewed sense of purpose" when returning to their offices.

In 2005, three youth from the previous Youth Advisory Boards testified before the Senate sub-committee as a result of their participation in this conference about the need for Medicaid for youth who age out of foster care. Because of their efforts, eligibility for Medicaid became law and went into effect on July 1, 2006. There are currently 133 youth enrolled in this category of Medicaid.

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## **Computer Camp Applications**

Below are the dates and locations of the 2007 computer camps. Please provide the attached application form to all foster and former foster youth who may be interested in applying for the computer camp who are age 17 to 20 and meet the eligibility requirement as identified in the application.

Youth who are selected from the applications will attend the all day camp, learn how to operate numerous programs and will take the computer and printer with them for their own use at the end of the day. This is an opportunity that all eligible youth should take advantage of whether they plan to attend a post-secondary institution or not. The due date for the applications to be returned is February 23<sup>rd</sup>. To prevent missing the deadline, it is important that the applications be completed and submitted as soon as possible.

**Computer Camp 1     March 24<sup>th</sup> at Ivy Tech Community College in Fort Wayne**

**Computer Camp 2     April 14<sup>th</sup> at Indiana State University in Terre Haute**

**Computer Camp 3     April 21<sup>st</sup> at Ivy Tech Community College in Indianapolis**

Youth should be reminded of the importance of the essay portion of the application since the two essays count toward 50% of the total score when choosing the winning applications. It is very important that youth complete the application and answer each question.

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## **21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars Program Appeal Process**

Many of our foster youth are not signed up for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars program through no fault of their own. Because they very much need this assistance in order for them to pursue post-secondary education, it is important that they are assisted in applying now and following the guidelines below even if they did not sign up while they were in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade. While this program is meant to be an educational program rather than a scholarship program, many of our youth have already missed out on the educational opportunities available due to their inability to apply timely. An application can be obtained by contacting the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars office at <http://www.in.gov/ssaci/programs/21st/index.html> or by calling 317-233-2100.

Please review the 3 different scenarios regarding foster youth in care who are not currently enrolled in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars Program and assist them in applying and providing the needed documentation to appeal their application. *The form may be signed by the youth's foster parent, child care worker, or Chafee IL case manager (be sure to indicate the role of the person in the youth's life below the signature) as well as the youth's family case manager.*

**Appeal for student who was a ward in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade but did not apply at this grade level.**

1. Have student complete front of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholar application
2. Have a DCS case manager (or someone working with the youth in an official capacity as indicated above) complete section 4 and 6 (the social security number is not required in section 6)
  - a. Be sure to include DCS ICWIS case number
  - b. Be sure the application is signed by the youth's DCS case manager or someone working with the youth as indicated above
3. Obtain a letter on DCS letterhead including the youth's name, DOB, SSN, and the open and close date of the CHINS case (this can be provided by the IL Coordinator if needed).
4. The person assisting the youth in completing the application must submit a letter of support for the youth
5. Copy all documentation and place in the youth's file
6. Mail originals to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars Program in self-addressed stamped envelope provided with the application

**Appeal for student who was not a ward in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade and did not apply in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade but has understandable reason for not applying**

1. (ex: A student who is currently a ward and attempted to apply but her mother did not turn in income verification. This student was taken away from her mother's custody and can justify it is not her fault that the application was not completed)
2. Complete the appeal form (attached)
3. Student must sign the appeal form and the front of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars application
4. Have a DCS case manager (or someone working with the youth in an official capacity as indicated above) complete section 4 and 6 (the social security number is not required in section 6)
  - a. Be sure to include DCS ICWIS case number
  - b. Be sure the application is signed by the youth's DCS case manager or someone working with the youth as indicated above
5. Obtain a letter on DCS letterhead including the youth's name, DOB, SSN, and the open and close date of the CHINS case (this can be provided by the IL Coordinator if needed).
  - c. If possible attain court documentation
7. The person assisting the youth must submit a letter that explains circumstances which prevented youth from applying in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade
6. Youth must write essay on reason behind not applying in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade
7. Copy all documentation and place in the youth's file
8. Mail originals to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars Program in self-addressed stamped envelope provided with the application or to the address on the appeal form

**Twenty First Applications for Youth who are wards of court in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade**

1. Have student complete front of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholar application
2. Have a DCS case manager (or someone working with the youth in an official capacity as indicated above) complete section 4 and 6 (the social security number is not required in section 6)
  - a. Be sure to include DCS ICWIS case number

- b. Be sure the application is signed by the youth's DCS case manager or someone working with the youth as indicated above
3. Copy all documentation and place in the youth's file
4. Mail originals to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars Program in self-addressed stamped envelope provided with the application

***\*\*\*If youth moves and/or switches school before graduation, please email [21stScholars@ssaci.in.gov](mailto:21stScholars@ssaci.in.gov) or call 317-233-2100 to provide them with the new address and school the youth is attending. Also, this process can be used to determine if a youth is a scholar or to follow up on an application that has been submitted.***

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## Training Available for Probation Departments

Since probation youth are eligible for Chafee services, it is important that the DCS and probation work closely together to ensure that the youth have a JD/JS Place and Pay case in ICWIS if they are not IV-E eligible and that they have a case plan.

Training has been provided to the probation departments of Cass County, Monroe County, Lake County, Marion County, and Allen County at their request. Training will be provided to any probation department requesting assistance. Please share this information with the probation staff in your county and have them contact Mary Lou Easter at [mary.easter@dcsc.in.gov](mailto:mary.easter@dcsc.in.gov) to schedule the training.

The probation staff in these counties has been very receptive to providing the needed information so that their youth can access services that are available to them while in care and when they age out of care. It is important that all probation youth in foster care have the same opportunities as CHINS youth since they are really all the same youth, they just came through a different door. CHINS youth come into the system because of the actions of their parents while probation youth come into the system because of their own actions, yet both come from dysfunctional environments that led to the behavior that came to the attention of authorities.

It is important to ensure that all youth who are likely to remain in foster care until age 18 have the assistance needed to become independent regardless of whether they are a CHINS or probation ward.

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## Volunteer Opportunity-Resume Builder

### How it Works

Through the Kohl's Kids Who Care program, parents, educators and community members nominate kids ages 6 through 18 who volunteer in their community to be recognized by Kohl's for their efforts. This program runs annually throughout the country in Kohl's markets from **February 1 to March 15**.

Kohl's will recognize young volunteers at three levels:

- Store level winners (earn \$50 gift card and a certificate)
- Regional winners (receive \$1,000 scholarship for post secondary education)
- National winners (receive \$5,000 scholarship and a \$1,000 grant to the charity of their choice)

Please go to the website below to check out this opportunity or ask at your local Kohl's store.

<http://www.kohlscorporation.com/CommunityRelations/Community05C.htm>